

Remarks

The specification has been amended to properly delineate the lineage of the present divisional application. Amendments have also been made throughout the specification to change MICHEM 48525P to MICHEM 48525R to correct a typographical error. Exhibit A shows that MICHEM 48525R (and not MICHEM 48525P) is the polymer provided by Michelman Incorporated, Cincinnati, OH, USA.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 161-180 are pending in the application, with claims 161, 169 and 175 being the independent claims. Claims 1-160 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 161-180 are sought to be added.

Support for new claims 161-180 may generally be found in Applicants' Written Description, for example, in the Abstract and in the original claims. Support for a blend of susceptors can be found, for example, at page 17, lines 11-13 and at page 32, lines 22-25. Support for the weight percentage ranges and/or values of ionomers, susceptors and polar carriers can be found, for example, at page 24, lines 18-24, at page 25, lines 19-25, and at page 31, lines 6-14. Support for a blend of tackifiers and their weight percentage ranges and/or values can be found, for example, at page 32, lines 4-6, and at page 37 line 20 to page 38, line 10. Support for the claimed susceptors and polar carriers can be found in the original claims and, for example, from page 18, line 25 to page 26, line 10, and from page 29, line 5 to page 32, line 12. Support for claims 168, 174 and 180 can be found, for example, at page 15, lines 15-17 and from pages 36-39. Support for claims 167 and 173 can be found, for example, at page 37, line 20 to page 38, line 10. Support for claim 179 can be found, for example, at page 120, line 121.

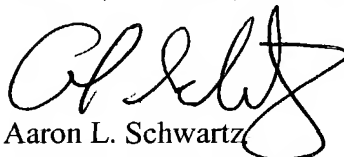
None of the amendments presented herein are believed to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification:

The specification has been amended at page 1, lines 4-8, as follows:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/076,647, filed February 19, 2002, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/482,553, filed January 13, 2000, now U.S. Patent no. 6,348,679, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. [application no.] 09/404,200, filed September 23, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. [application no.] 09/270,505, filed March 17, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. [application no.] 60/078,282, filed March 17, 1998, the contents of each of which are fully incorporated by reference herein.

The paragraph beginning on page 13, line 17, was amended as follows:

FIG. 61 depicts a graph showing RF activation time vs. % glycerin in a composition comprising the sodium salt of an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer (MICHEM Prime [48525P] 48525R).

The paragraph beginning at page 25, line 14, was amended as follows:

Specific examples of such acrylic acid copolymers include ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and the ammonium (MICHEM 4982P) and sodium (MICHEM [48525P] 48525R) salts thereof available from Michelman Incorporated, Cincinnati, OH. A further example is vinyl acetate acrylic copolymers (e.g. ROVACE HP3442) available from Rohm and Hass, Philadelphia, PA.

The table on page 100 has been amended as follows:

Table 7

ETHYLENE ACRYLIC ACID COPOLYMERS (Acid Form) ... (MICHEM 4983P, Available from Michelman Incorporated, Cincinnati, OH, USA)			
Experiment #	Composition Description	Film Properties	Time to Melt (s)
1	100 wt% MICHEM 4983P	Clear, colorless, brittle, tack-free.	28
2	70 wt% MICHEM 4983P 30 wt% glycerin	Clear, colorless, less brittle, tack-free.	0.5
3	50 wt% MICHEM 4983P 50 wt% glycerin	Clear, colorless, flexible, tack-free.	0.4
ETHYLENE ACRYLIC ACID COPOLYMERS (Sodium Salt Form) ... (MICHEM [48525P] <u>48525R</u> , Available from Michelman Incorporated, Cincinnati, OH, USA)			
Experiment #	Composition Description	Film Properties	Time to Melt (s)
4	100 wt% MICHEM [48525P] <u>48525R</u>	Clear, colorless, brittle, tack-free.	No Heating in 1 minute.
5	70 wt% MICHEM [48525P] <u>48525R</u> 30 wt% glycerin	Clear, colorless, flexible, tack-free, rubbery.	0.5
6	50 wt% MICHEM [48525P] <u>48525R</u> 50 wt% glycerin	Clear, colorless, flexible, tack-free, rubbery.	0.2 – 0.4

The paragraph at page 123, line 6 has been amended as follows:

This example demonstrates the effect of varying the concentration of the polar carrier in blends of the polar carrier and an ionomer, where the ionomer is the sodium salt of an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer. The polar carrier of this example is glycerin. Glycerin has a dielectric constant, ϵ , of 42.5 at 25°C. The ionomer of this example is a commercially available aqueous dispersion of the sodium salt of an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer (MICHEM [48525P] 48525R).

The paragraph at page 123, line 12, has been amended as follows:

Several compositions were prepared as aqueous mixtures of MICHEM [48525P] 48525R and glycerin. The wt. % concentration of glycerin in each of the compositions was varied from 0% up to 50%, where total weight is based on total weight of ionomer solids combined with total weight of glycerin.

The paragraph at page 123, line 17, has been amended as follows:

Each composition was prepared to have a total mass of 50 grams. For each composition, the respective amounts of MICHEM [48525P] 48525R ionomer dispersion and glycerin were initially weighed into a jar and mixed for about 10 minutes. The jars were sealed with tops until castings were made. Each composition was then applied as a liquid at room temperature into castings onto a 0.0035 inch thick sheet of transparency film (3M PP2500 Transparency Film) and allowed to dry down into 0.003 inch thick coatings. The resulting coatings differed in their relative RF-heating properties. RF activation was evaluated as described in Example 17.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-160 have been canceled.

New claims 161-180 have been added.

In the Drawings:

Fifty-five (55) sheets of formal drawings have been submitted to replace the informal drawings submitted with the application.